OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has developed the technology for 16,000 port main automatic exchange. Testing of the 16,000 port exchange (initial equipment for 4,000 lines) is in progress.

(b) The expenditure incurred by C-DOT on the electronic switching system project upto 31.3.89 is Rs. 53.5 crores. There has been some delay in design, engineering and field trial of the 16,000 port exchange but the schedule of productionisation laid down as end of 7th Plan is expected to be maintained.

(c) The 16,000 port system (initial equipment for 4,000 lines) for field trial has been installed at Ulsoor, Bangalore. Field trial will commence in May, 1989.

Absorption of Ex-Army Medical Corps Doctors in Central Health Services

727. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the ways and modes open to Ex-Army Medical Officers to enter Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that such doctors have to appear in the Indian Medical Service examination as fresh entrants;

(c) if so, whether there is any scheme for absorption of such doctors in Central Health Services, as part of the programme for resettlement of Ex-Army personnel; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The recruitment to the posts of Medical Officers in the Central Health Service is made by direct recruitment through the Union Public Service Commission. Ex-Army Medical Officers desirous of joining the Central Health Service have to appear in the combined Medical Services Examination. The upper age limit of 30 years is relaxable for certain categories of Defence personnel for periods ranging from 3 to 10 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

728. [Transferred to be 18th May, 1989].

Joint Indo-French production of New Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Pertusis (DPTP) Vaccine

729. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to replace old DPT vaccine with the new D.P.T.P. vaccines;

(b) if so, what are the advantages and the efficacy of the new DPTP vaccine;

(c) whether Government have signed an agreement with France to establish a new Indo-French Joint ventures with new biotechnology from Institute Mario, France to produce new DPTP vaccine;

(d) if so, what are the details of such products and production capacity;

(e) whether Government propose to acquire biotechnology from Pasteur Institute France for effective production of different kinds of immunisation vaccines;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) in what manner Government propose to utilise the technology acquired from Institute Mario and Pasteur Institute for better immunisation programme?